

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at lines 10-13 on page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention relates generally to systems and methods for implementing storage virtualization in a data storage network, and more specifically to systems and methods of utilizing multiple storage devices in a network and managing the storage devices as a single entity enabling storage to be utilized as a utility.

Please replace the text at lines 12-14 on page 10 with the following amended text:

~~The flags~~ True/False flags according to one embodiment include:

Allocated - True if Block has been allocated. ~~has this Block been allocated.~~

Please replace the paragraph at lines 14-18 on page 17 with the following amended paragraph:

The creation and deletion of virtual disks of specified virtual sizes (2^{32} , 2^{64} , 2^{80} , ... blocks). This feature may be used either to accommodate specific requirements of host systems (for example special SCSI device drivers are required to address more than 2^{32} blocks) or as methods to implement business models whereby limits are placed on the storage consumption by [[an]] a given end user.